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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0294

INFO RUEHZN/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

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UNCLAS PRAGUE 000274

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EUR/NCE FOR ATRATENSEK, IO/RHS AND DRL/MLGA FOR KMCGEENEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PREL UNHCR EZ EUN

SUBJECT: CZECHS NOT COMPETING FOR UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
THIS YEAR

REF: STATE 46477

(SBU) Czech Director of Human Rights and Transition Policy, Gabriela Dlouha, indicated that the Czech Republic does not plan to compete for one of the two East European group seats at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) this year. Following the defeat last fall of the Czech bid for the UN Security Council seat, the Czechs made a tactical decision not to go through a second competition this year for another significant UN seat. Thus, late last year the Czechs spoke with the Slovaks and rather than compete against each other this year, they plan to cooperate closely (assuming that Slovakia wins one of the seats). The Czechs will compete for the HRC in 2011. Dlouha stated that of the three contenders - Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia - the Czechs have made commitments to support Slovakia and Serbia.

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